



# "A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTRY"

## LINDON CITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2013

### Mayor

James A. Dain

### City Center Offices

100 North State Street  
Upper Level  
785-5043

### Community Development

100 North State Street  
Lower Level  
785-7687

### Public Works

946 West Center Street  
796-7954

### Justice Court

100 North State Street  
Upper Level  
785-1971

### Police

100 North State Street  
Lower Level  
Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Police Department Offices  
769-8600

### Fire

Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Other Fire Services  
229-7327

### Aquatics Center

60 West 60 North  
610-4160

### Community/Senior Center

25 North Main  
769-8637/769-8625

### City Website

[www.lindoncity.org](http://www.lindoncity.org)

### Christmas Tree Pick-Up

Trees must be placed curbside no later than Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> by 7 a.m. to ensure prompt pickup. Service is limited to one tree per household. Flocked trees cannot be picked up. Call 801-785-5935 for more info.

### School Violence, Are we prepared?

As this New Year dawns, it is disheartening to have the need to write about the safety of our schools and of the precious lives of our children, educators, and volunteers who work in them every day. However, in light of the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, and many other similar violent incidents around our country, the safety and security of our places of education needs to be something that we all think about and agree to participate in. Unfortunately, between 1992 and 2000, there occurred approximately 270 violent deaths in schools in the United States, according to a report by the National School Safety Center. Of those deaths, 207 of them were due to gun violence, an average of about 26 per year. In addition, in a 1996-1997 survey, it was found that 57% of public school principals reported a crime or act of violence that occurred on school property. The most common of these were physical attacks that did not involve weapons.

The problem of violence in the nation's schools is escalating at an alarming rate. A quick check of 2012 statistics, (which I must note are not completely reported at this time) shows that we experienced 49 deaths in our schools in 2012, nearly twice the yearly average of the 1990's. Something has obviously changed. I am sure that in the aftermath of this event, on a national and even world-wide level, both pro and anti-gun advocates will be involved in discussion regarding the potential restriction of firearms or lack of mental health resources or violent media being to blame. I am not here for that purpose. Since the latest occurrences of school violence, I have received dozens of calls from concerned parents and citizens regarding our preparedness here in Lindon City. Most want to know if we have community response plans, conduct regular drills, and if the schools themselves have plans on how to best protect our kids.

I wish to let everyone know that schools have long been identified as potential locations of vulnerability with unique access and security issues regarding a large number of people. I want to assure you that we do have emergency response plans to our schools in the event of many types of incidents, including natural disasters, severe weather events, fire or intruders, evacuation, lock down or sheltering-in-place. We do drill regularly with the schools on these often very different types of responses, and I am proud of our school administrators and staff for the support that they give us in these efforts. On the average, our schools in Lindon can be locked down in less than two minutes with every child accounted for in less than four. That is an amazing effort by the schools and shows to me their commitment to safety. Since the latest school violence in our nation, we have been in contact with each Lindon school to review and modify plans yet again.

The most common question that I have been asked by parents in the last weeks has been "Can we get the schools to put their emergency plans on their website for us to see?" Please consider that although this knowledge would be ideal... in an ideal world, do you really want anyone to know the evacuation plans, routes, rallying points and student release procedures for our most vulnerable population? I don't, and I have advised the schools against publishing this specific information. Please be assured that the safety of our schools is of the utmost importance to Lindon City, the Police Department, and to the School District. We are all working together as a team to provide the highest level of safety and security without turning our schools into jails for our students. I ask you for your continued support in complying with and promoting school and community safety procedures as these efforts evolve and grow.

Cody Cullimore, Chief of Police